

Filing assistance

Victim/Witness Assistance Centers in every county have trained staff to assist victims in applying for compensation under VCP.

The law allows VCP to pay up to \$500 for an attorney to assist you in the application process. Attorney fees are not subtracted from your payment. The law prohibits attorneys from charging, demanding, receiving, or collecting any amount for their services, except those paid by VCP.

More information

VCP Customer Services Unit

1-800-777-9229

**Hearing impaired, please call
the California Relay Service at
1-800-735-2929**

All Languages Accommodated
www.boc.ca.gov

The district attorney's office or law enforcement in your county (see the white *Government Pages* of your local telephone directory) may refer you to the nearest Victim/Witness Assistance Center or

Victims of Crime Resource Center
1-800-VICTIMS (1-800-842-8467)

Board Members

Clothilde V. Hewlett/Interim Director
Department of General Services
Chairman of the Board

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Victim Compensation
& Government Claims Board



Funeral & Burial Assistance



Note: This brochure is intended to provide general information *only*. It does not include all of the requirements of the Victim Compensation Program. **Revised January 2002**



The death of a loved one because of a crime is one of the most difficult times you and your family may face. While financial assistance can never erase the grief caused by this loss, it may ease some of the financial burdens of those left behind.

Dear Californians:

No one deserves to suffer from the physical, emotional, and financial costs of being a crime victim.

If you have been a victim of a crime, the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board and its network of victim advocates and providers throughout the state can help you recover financially. This program is funded from fines and fees paid by offenders, not California taxpayers.

Please use this brochure to learn about this important program or contact the Board at 1-800-777-9229 for more information.

Sincerely,


GRAY DAVIS
Governor of California

Who can get help?

Anyone who pays or agrees to pay the funeral, burial, and/or medical expenses of a qualified victim who dies as a result of a crime,

Or

Anyone who pays or agrees to pay for the expense of cleaning a crime scene if the crime happened in a residence.*

How do I apply?

You must file a Victim Compensation Program (VCP) application within one year of the crime (or three years, if good cause for the delay can be shown).

How long will it take?

Once VCP receives your application, it may take 90 days or more for you to receive your award. Processing time may be reduced significantly if all appropriate reports, bills, or receipts are attached.

An Emergency Award (an advance on the award) is processed within 30 days.

What expenses may be paid?

The total payments for funeral and/or burial expenses typically have a limit.

Typical funeral expenses include:

- Use of facility (visitation/calling hours)
- Automotive services (procession, police escort)
- Graveside services
- Casket
- Burial vault
- Flowers
- Memorial folder

- Copies of death certificate
- Newspaper notices
- Other services and charges of a funeral home

Typical burial expenses include:

- Gravesite
- Endowment care (grave maintenance)
- Labor for opening/closing grave
- Marker/headstone/tombstone

Related expenses include:

- Deceased victim's medical expenses
- Travel expenses to make arrangements or accompany the deceased on a public carrier (such as an airplane)
- Up to five days wage loss for time off from work to make arrangements
- Temporary lodging while making arrangements

What expenses are not covered?

- Unrelated travel
- Food, alcohol, or other hospitality costs
- Finance charges on funeral and/or burial bill
- Prepurchased funeral or grave
- Personal property

*Up to \$1,000 for crime-scene cleanup if the crime happened in a residence. Cleanup must be done by a person or company registered with the Department of Health Services as a trauma scene management practitioner.